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Preface

The international workshop on “*Numerical Linear Algebra, Internet and Large Scale Applications*” was held at Hotel Porto Giardino, Monopoli, Italy, from September 9th to September 14th, 2007. The aim of the workshop was to explore novel techniques for modeling and analyzing massive, high-dimensional, and nonlinear-structured data, and to discuss new efficient and reliable numerical linear algebra algorithms for Web and large scale applications, bringing together computer scientists, computational and applied mathematicians, statisticians, and practitioners to promote cross-fertilization of ideas.

Areas and topics of interest for the workshop included:

- Information retrieval on the Web.
- Web search ranking methods.
- Parameter selection in Web search-type matrices.
- Sensitivity of models with respect to parameters and their interpretation.
- Model hierarchies, model assembly and representation.
- Iterative solution of Markov chains, including aggregation techniques, multigrid and algebraic domain decomposition.
- Numerical methods for singular value decomposition.
- Numerical methods for large sparse or structured linear systems.

The invited speakers were: Berry, Michael W. (USA); Bini, Dario A. (Italy); Brezinski, Claude (France); Del Corso, Gianna (Italy); Golub, Gene H. (USA); Langville, Amy (USA); Redivo Zaglia, Michela (Italy); Rodriguez, Giuseppe (Italy); Serra-Capizzano, Stefano (Italy); Tyrtshnikov, Eugene E. (Russia); Van Barel, Marc (Belgium); Vandebril, Raf (Belgium); Vigna, Sebastiano (Italy).

In particular, our thoughts go to Gene H. Golub who suggested organizing a workshop on such a topic. The workshop was one of the last events he attended.

Financial support was offered by the *Information and Communication Technology Department, Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche*, from *Gruppo Nazionale Calcolo Scientifico*, from Regione Puglia.

Most of the papers in this issue were presented at the workshop.

We sincerely wish to thank the referees who helped us in doing the editorial work. Their efforts, corrections and suggestions for improvement made it possible to publish scientific papers of high quality.

Moreover, we would like to thank all the contributors to this issue, and Luc Wuytack, the editor-in-chief of *Journal of Computational and Applied Mathematics*, for giving us the opportunity to publish the special issue.

Last but not least, we express our gratitude to all participants for their contributions and for making the workshop an interesting and pleasant event.

Guest editors

Michael W. Berry*

Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science,
The University of Tennessee, USA
E-mail address: berry@eecs.utk.edu.

Dario A. Bini

Dipartimento di Matematica,
Universita di Pisa, Italy

Nicola Mastronardi

Istituto per le Applicazioni del Calcolo “M. Picone”,
Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, Bari, Italy

Stefano Serra-Capizzano
*Dipartimento di Matematica e Fisica,
Università dell'Insubria, Como, Italy*

* Corresponding editor.